

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02
L-03 H-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08
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-----106425 211316Z /53
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5748
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE/OGSM AND AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL WHEAT UNDER
TITLE I OF PL-480

1. MINISTRY OF SUPPLY HAS MADE SEVERAL INQUIRIES DURING PAST FEW DAYS RE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ANOTHER 500,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT UNDER TITLE I. THESE INQUIRIES APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY REPORT FROM COMMERCIAL SECTION OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT ADDITIONAL 58.6 MILLION DOLLARS IN TITLE I FUNDING HAS BECOME AVAILABLE. AS RELAYED TO US, UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IS RESERVE FROM ORIGINAL 800 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1978 FUNDING OR NEW FUNDS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION. IN VIEW OF THE AMOUNT, WE ASSUME IT IS THE FORMER.

2. WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT MET WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, SECRETARY INDICATED THAT EGYPT'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL WHEAT UNDER TITLE I WOULD BE RECEIVED SYMPATHETICALLY BUT POINTED OUT THAT SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE
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NECESSARY FUNDS.

3. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST IF FUNDS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL 500,000 METRIC TONS WHEAT FOR EGYPT ARE AVAILABLE FROM ORIGINAL UNALLOCATED RESERVE, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION, OR BOTH.

4. WE REALIZE THAT EGYPTIAN REQUEST COMES AT TIME WHEN WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE JUST EXPRESSED DOUBT AND CONCERN ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO DISCHARGE AND MOVE QUANTITIES OF WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR ALREADY PROGRAMMED. GEORGE POPE NOW IN ALEXANDRIA FOLLOWING VISIT TO PORT SAID AND WILL RETURN CAIRO 2/22/78. WE WILL PROVIDE NEW ASSESSMENT OF PORT SITUATION AND RELATED MATTERS AT THAT TIME. OUR TENTATIVE VIEW IS THAT EGYPT MUST IMPORT ALMOST 5 MILLION METRIC TONS OF GRAIN IN 1977/78 AND WILL FIND MEANS TO DISCHARGE AND TRANSPORT THAT QUANTITY, SINCE ALTERNATIVE IS SHORTAGE OF BREAD, THE STAPLE FOOD OF EGYPTIAN MASSES, AND EVEN GREATER SHORTAGE OF FEEDSTUFFS THAN USUAL ACUTE SITUATION. WE BELIEVE ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF GRAIN CAN BE UNLOADED AT PORT SAID BY MARINE SHIPPING CORPORATION, PARTICULARLY IF LARGE SHIPS ARE USED, AND IF ENOUGH TRUCKS TO MOVE GRAIN OUT OF PORT AREA ARE PROVIDED BY GOE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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